



John Reich Journal

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JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1680 Windham, ME 04062

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues\$25.00
 Life Membership\$625.00

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: 1836 B-3 small size quarter. One of the most dramatic LDS examples in the entire bust quarter series displaying both obverse and reverse breaks along with die buckling at the lower drapery. Popular and very collectible because it can be found easily with the breaks (R-1) although much tougher in the early die state. Owned by Glenn Marx, pedigreed to the late Jules Reiver which sold in Heritage 1-27-06 Lot 22461 NGC-62 #2032985-017.

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Official publication of the
John Reich Collectors Society

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Editors' Comments

The annual ANA show is quickly approaching and many of us are anticipating an exciting show. There will be ample opportunities to add something of significance to our collections and to educate ourselves about our hobby.

The annual meeting of the John Reich Collectors Society is scheduled for Wednesday morning August, 14 at 8AM. Please check the ANA directory to confirm the room number. We will have an educational presentation by David Finkelstein concerning his research into the early coinages titled, "The Colors of our Heraldic Eagle Silver and Gold Coins". We will also be electing officers for the upcoming year. Additionally, we will announce the recent inductions into the JRCS Hall of Fame. We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at the annual meeting.

The next census to be covered by the JRCS is the bust dimes. You will find the information for submitting your census to David Quint at the bottom of this page. The census is only as good as the membership makes it. Please send your information including duplicates and die states to David for inclusion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the authors who have submitted articles for publication in the John Reich Journal. The membership is enriched by your efforts. I would also like to encourage first time authors to submit something for the next issues. It can be as simple as a personal experience in the hobby, or an in depth research paper. We need new blood to help diversify the information we publish. Each author is also eligible to receive the coveted Jules Reiver Literary Award given to the most popular article each year as voted by the membership. We will be announcing last year's winner in the next issue of the journal.

I hope everyone has had a rewarding numismatic year and that each of you discovers something of interest for your collections. Hopefully we can all meet in Chicago at the convention. If not, we will miss you. Hopefully you will be able to make the next convention.

BUST DIME COLLECTORS

The Bust Dime Census will be included in the next issue of the journal
You are encouraged to send your census including duplicates and die states to:

David Quint at dimecensus@yahoo.com

If you need to send a paper copy to David, email him for instructions.

Heraldic Eagle Die Analysis: Bust Dollar Hubb Scratch

David Finkelstein

As I was doing research for my Heraldic Eagle die analysis articles, I was analyzing the 1803 Bust Dollar business strike reverses. For reasons unknown, my subconscious was telling me that the reverses, regardless of die marriage, looked alike. But how?

Three different reverse dies were used to strike the 5 business strike die marriages dated 1803; B-1 (BB-251), B-3 (BB-256), B-4 (BB-254), B-5 (BB-252) and B-6 (BB-255). If you look at the relationship between the eagle's beak and the star to the left of the beak, as well as the star point to scroll intersection, the differences between the 3 reverse dies are easy to see. (See Figure 1) Since Bolender identified only 2 reverse dies in his reference, all reverse dies in this article have the Bowers-Borckardt identifiers.

Figure 1 - 1803 BB Reverse Dies A, B & C



**Rev A (1801 Rev D)
1803 B-1 & B-5**

**Rev B (1801 Rev B)
1803 B-4 & B-6**

Rev C - 1803 B-3

As I looked at multiple high resolution images of each 1803 business strike die marriage in the Heritage Auction Results Archives, I finally saw what was nagging me. There was a long die line from the top of 10th horizontal azure line in the shield (counting from the bottom) that extended well into the eagle's left wing (your right). This die line was on the 3 different business strike reverse dies used in 1803. (See Figures 2, 3 and 4)

The die line is between the up and down arrows. It is in the same location on every reverse!!! Note that 2 of the 3 reverse dies that were mated with 1803 head dies¹ were first mated with 1801 head dies. This means that some of the 1801 dated Bust Dollars have this reverse die line. As it turns out, all 1801 Bust Dollars have this die line!!!



Figure 2 - 1803 BB Reverse A = 1801 Reverse D

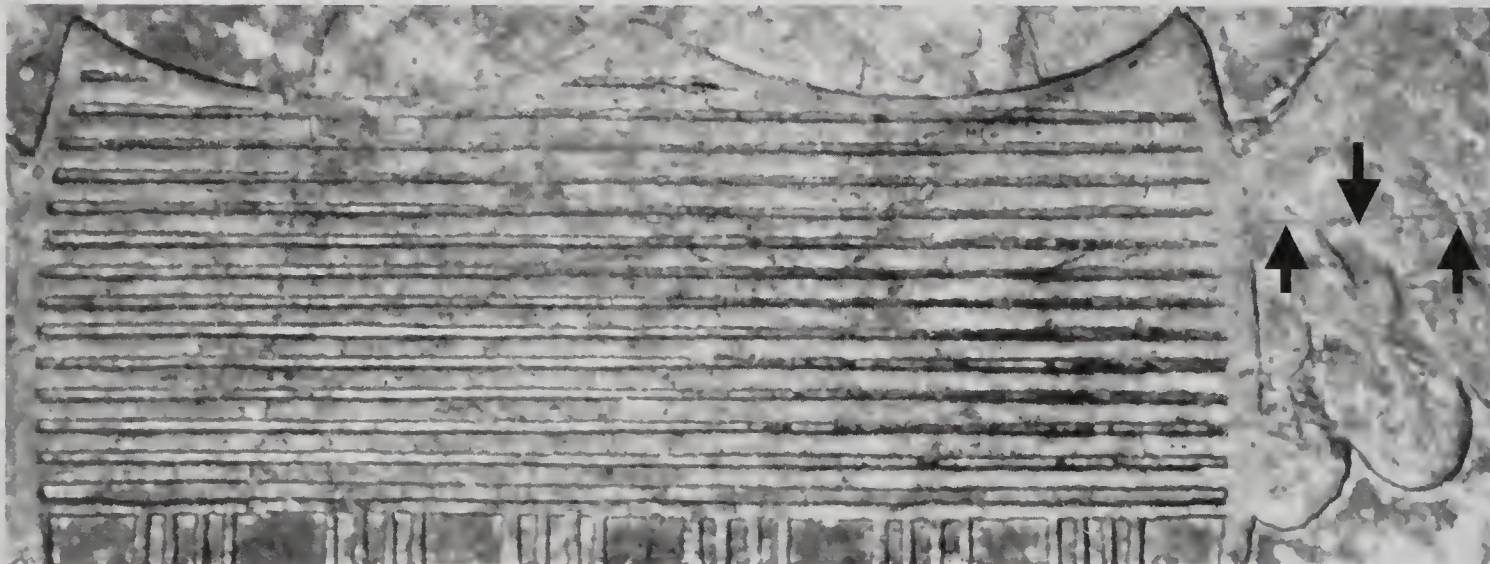


Figure 3 - 1803 BB Reverse B = 1801 Reverse B



Figure 4 - 1803 BB Reverse C

My Analysis

I was not certain if the die line was incused into or raised off the surface of the coins. Since computer images are two dimensional, I had to inspect high grade Bust Dollars. At the January, 2012 FUN Show in Orlando, I examined multiple 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802 and 1803 Bust Dollars in dealer showcases on the bourse floor. The majority of these coins graded Fine though XF, with a small number grading AU.

Fortunately, Heritage had high grade Bust Dollars in their FUN Auction. At their lot viewing table, I was able to examine the following slabbed Dollars: 1800 B-8 MS62, 1800 B-16 AU58, 1801 B-2 MS61, 1802/1 B-3 AU58, and 1802 B-6, MS63. The die line was definitely incused into the surface of each of these Bust Dollars.

This die line is at azure line 10 (counting from the bottom) on:

- 1 of the 16 reverse dies that were mated with 1799 dated head dies,
- 10 of the 11 reverse dies that were mated with 1800 dated head dies,
- all business strike reverse dies mated with 1801 - 1803 dated head dies.
- Reverse X; the reverse die that was used to strike the 1801, 1802 and 1803 Proof Novodel Dollars, and the 1804 Class I Dollar. (See Figure 5)
- Reverse Y: the reverse die that was used to strike the 1804 Class II and III Proof Dollars. (See Figure 6)

There is only one logical explanation that explains this die line. This die line is a horizontal scratch on the Bust Dollar Hubb¹.

Every coining die¹ was initially created from either a Hubb or a group of Hubbs. The devices that were on the Hubb(s) were transferred to the coining die. Incused areas on a Hubb create raised areas on a coining die, and raised areas on a Hubb create incused areas on a coining die. Since this line is incused into the surface of the coin, it was raised on the coining dies, and therefore incused on the Hubb.

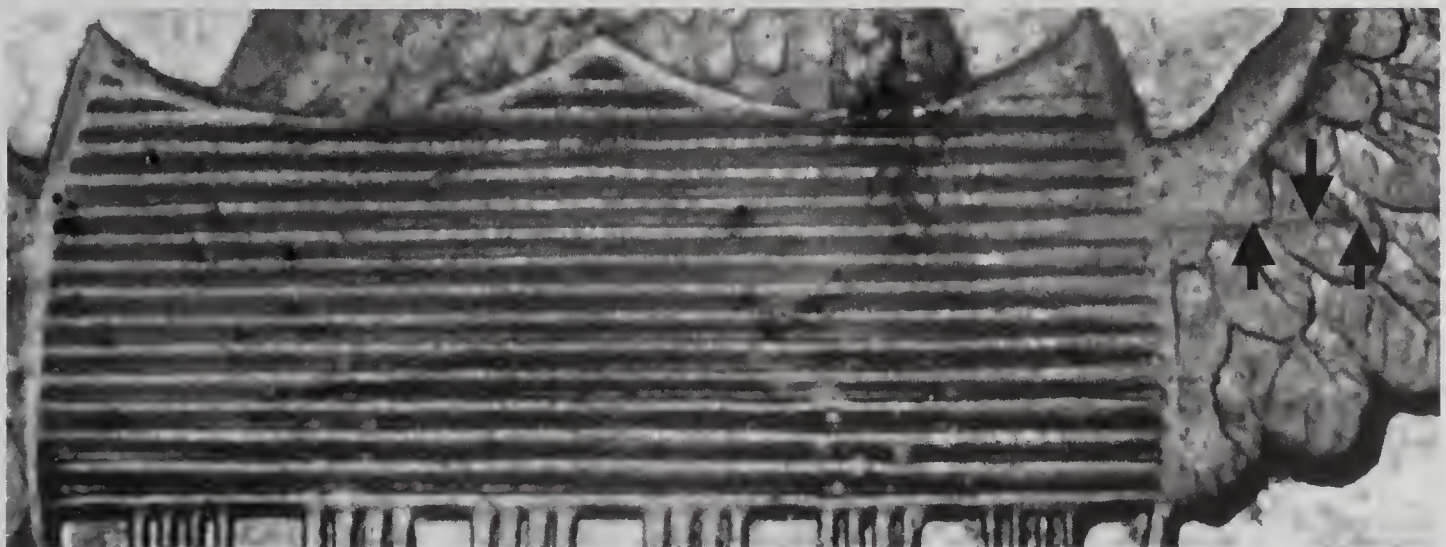


Figure 5 – BB Reverse X: 1801 / 2 / 3 / 4 Class I Proof

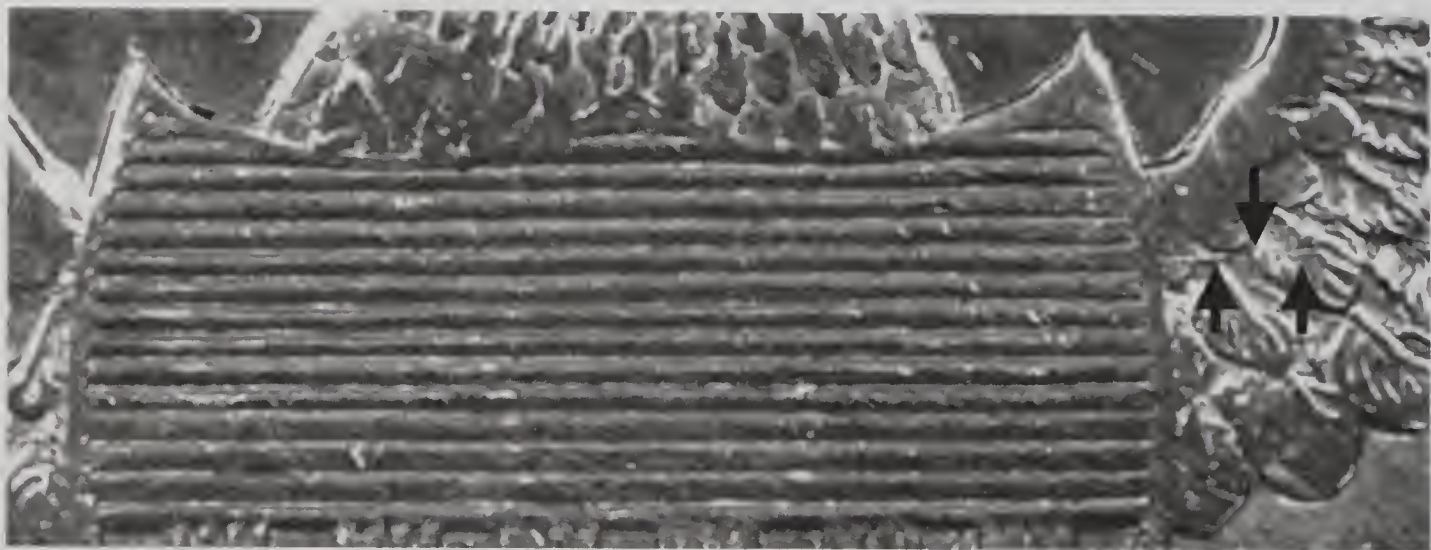


Figure 6 – BB Reverse Y: 1804 Class II & III Proof

The Hubb scratch is always at azure line 10 (counting from the bottom). This raises a very valid question. Were the azure lines also on the Hubb?

Table 2 lists all business strike and Proof reverse dies from 1804 down to 1799. The reverse die identifiers are the Bowers-Borckardt identifiers. The Bolender die marriages associated with each reverse die are in (). Why Bolender die marriages? I needed to conserve space in the table. The Table specifies whether the Hubb scratch is present on the specific reverse die, and includes the horizontal azure count for that die. Refer to my article titled *A Methodology For Counting Azure Lines* in JRJ Volume 22 / Issue 3, November 2012. A ? was added after the azure count if I was not exactly sure of the count in one of the apexes of the shield.

Table 2 – Bust Dollar Dies .vs. Hubb Scratch

Year	Reverse Die	Hubb Scratch?	Azure Count
1804	Y (Proof Class II & III)	Yes	13-222?
	X (Proof Class I)	Yes	13-222
1803	1801 Rev A (B-1, B-5)	Yes	13-222
	1801 Rev B (B-4, B-6)	Yes	13-222
	C (B-3)	Yes	13-222
	X (B-7 Proof Novodel)	Yes	13-222
1802	1801 Rev A (B-1, B-4, B-6)	Yes	13-222
	1801 Rev B (B-2, B-3, B-5, B-9)	Yes	13-222
	X (B-8 Proof Novodel)	Yes	13-222
1801	A (B-1)	Yes	13-222
	B (B-2)	Yes	13-222
	C (B-3)	Yes	13-222
	D (B-4)	Yes	13-222
	X (B-5 Proof Novodel)	Yes	13-222
1800	A (B-1, B-2)	Yes	13-222
	B (B-3)	Yes	13-222
	C (B-12)	No	12-232

Heraldic Eagle Die Analysis: Bust Dollar Hubb Scratch

Year	Reverse Die	Hubb Scratch?	Azure Count
	D (B-4, B-16, B-20)	Yes	13-222
	E (B-8)	Yes	13-222
	F (B-5, B-10)	Yes	13-222
	G (B-11, B-19)	Yes	13-222
	H (B-13/18)	Yes	13-222
	I (B-14)	Yes	13-222
	J (B-15)	Yes	13-222
	K (B-17)	Yes	13-222
1799	A (B-3, B-4)	No	12-232
	B (B-1)	No	12-232
	C (B-2, B-19)	No	12-232
	D (B-13)	No	12-232
	E (B-15) 1798 Reverse T	No	12-323
	F (B-18)	No	12-232?
	G (B-7)	No	12-333
	H (B-5)	No	12-333
	I (B-11, B-12, B-16, B-23)	No	12-333
	J (B-6)	Yes	13-222
	K (B-10)	No	12-333
	L (B-17)	No	13-222
	M (B-8)	No	12-232
	N (B-9)	No	12-232
	O (B-14, B-21)	No	12-232
	P (B-22)	No	12-333
1798	C (B-4, B-32)	No	17-444
	D (B-5)	No	12-434
	E (B-3, B-7, B-20)	No	10-333
	F (B-6, B-17)	No	17-433
	G (B-18, B-22)	No	12-333
	H (B-19, B-23)	No	12-222
	I (B-13, B-21)	No	12-444
	J (B-10)	No	12-222
	K (B-11, B-15, B-16, B-27)	No	12-322
	L (B-26)	No	12-333
	M (B-31)	No	12-333
	N (B-30)	No	12-233
	O (B-33)	No	12-233
	P (B-28)	No	12-333
	Q (B-12, B-29)	No	12-232
	R (B-9)	No	12-333
	S (B-14)	No	12-333
	T (B-24, B-25)	No	12-323
	U (B-8)	No	12-223

Table 2 identifies that all but one of the reverse dies first used with 1800 to 1804 dated head dies have the Hubb scratch. 1800 BB Reverse C does not have the Hubb scratch. See Figure 7. What is different about this reverse when compared to all other reverses that were first used with 1800 to 1804 dated head dies? As it turns out, there are significant differences. On page 370 of the Bowers-Borckardt reference, some of differences are noted:

“Left side of N in UNUM about in a line with edge of eagle’s neck, the only 1800 reverse for which this is true. Smallest letters in E PLURIBUS UNUM of any reverse die used this year... The U in UNITED is defective at its upper left corner, from a broken punch (as with 1799 Reverses H, I and P).”

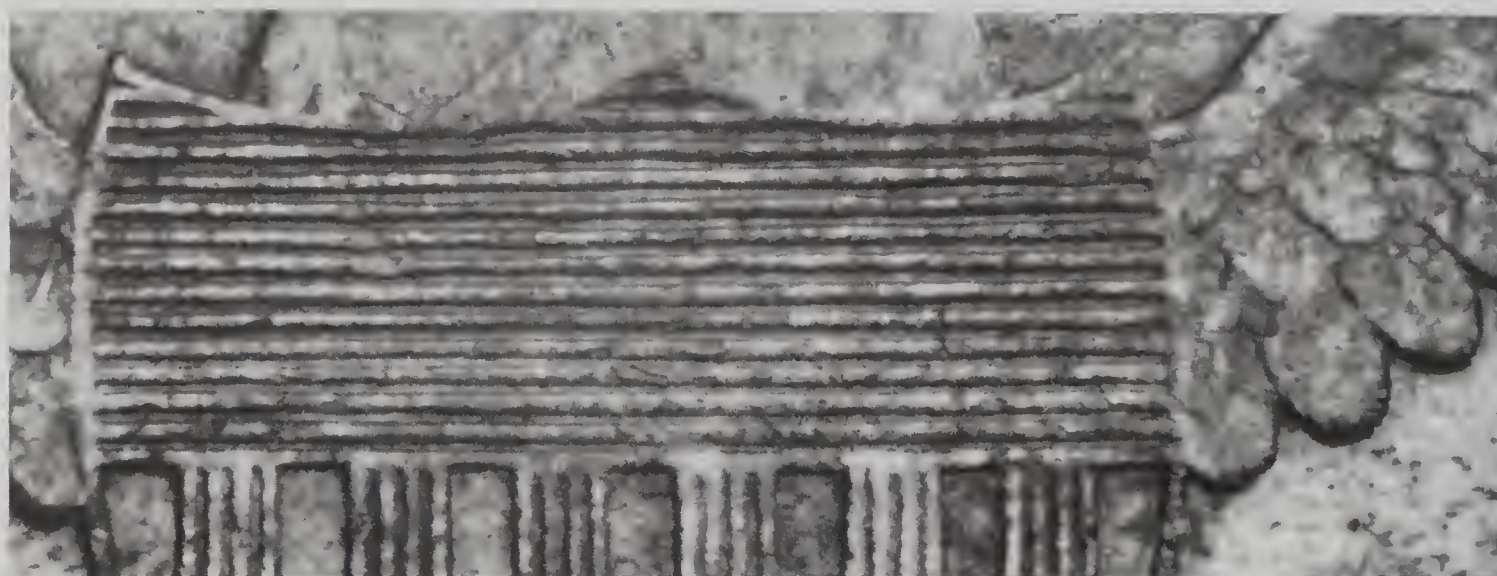


Figure 7 – 1800 BB Reverse C (12-232)

In addition, 1800 BB Reverse C has an azure count of 12-232 (12 complete azure lines, 2 azure line segments in Apex 1, 3 azure line segments in Apex 2, and 2 azure line segments in Apex 3. All other reverse dies, first used with 1800 – 1804 dated head dies, have an azure count of 13-222.

Based on my analysis and the data in Table 2:

1. Reverse dies mated with 1798 dated head dies have either 10, 12 or 17 complete azure lines. Reverse dies mated with 1799 dated head dies have either 12 or 13 complete azure lines. Table 2 identifies 13 different azure count combinations for the 34 different reverse dies that were first mated with 1798 and 1799 dated head dies. Why are there so many different azure counts?

Had the azure lines been engraved into the Original Die¹, all reverse coining dies mated with 1798 and 1799 dated head dies would have had the same azure count. They don't, therefore the complete azure lines and azure line segments were engraved into each Heraldic Eagle Bust Dollar reverse coining die.

2. All but one of the reverse coining dies that were mated with 1800 – 1804 dated head dies have an azure count of 13-222. Coincidentally, these coining dies have the Hubb scratch

at azure line 10. Had the complete azure lines and azure line segments been engraved into every coining die, wouldn't one expect a variety of azure counts (as seen on 1798 and 1799 dated Dollars)? Since the azure counts are the same, one can infer that the complete azure lines and azure line segments were engraved into the Original Die.

3. Beginning in 1798, the complete azure lines and azure line segments were engraved into the individual coining dies. Sometime in 1799, the complete azure lines and azure line segments were engraved into the Original Die. Either the existing Original Die was modified or a new Original Die was created. The incused azure lines in the Original Die were raised on the Hubb. The Hubb was scratched at the 10th azure line. All coining dies created from this Hubb have the azure lines transferred as incused lines and the Hubb scratch transferred as a raised line. When the coins were struck, the raised line at azure line 10 on the coining die resulted as an incused line (or scratch) on the coins.
4. 17 of the 18 reverse dies mated with 1800 - 1804 dated head dies have the Hubb scratch and an azure count of 13-222. The one reverse die that does not have the Hubb scratch (1800 Reverse C) has an azure count of 12-232. 1800 Reverse C probably originated from a different Original Die and Hubb than all other reverse dies that were mated with 1800 – 1804 head dies.

More Questions

BB Reverse X is the reverse die for the 1801, 1802 and 1803 Proof Novodel, and the 1804 Class I Proof Dollars. BB Reverse Y is the reverse die for the 1804 Class II and III Proof Dollars. BB Reverse X and BB Reverse Y have the Hubb scratch at azure line 10 and an azure count of 13-222. They therefore originated from the Hubb used to create all reverse dies mated with 1800 - 1803 dated head dies (except 1800 Reverse C).

Were BB Reverse X and Reverse Y:

- (a) created circa 1834 with the Hubb (with the scratch at azure line 10) that was first used circa 1799?
- (b) created no earlier than the late 1820s and no later than 1834 (as Bowers & Borckardt suggest on page 437 of their reference)?
- (c) leftover, unused reverse dies from circa 1803?
- (d) some of the above?
- (e) none of the above?

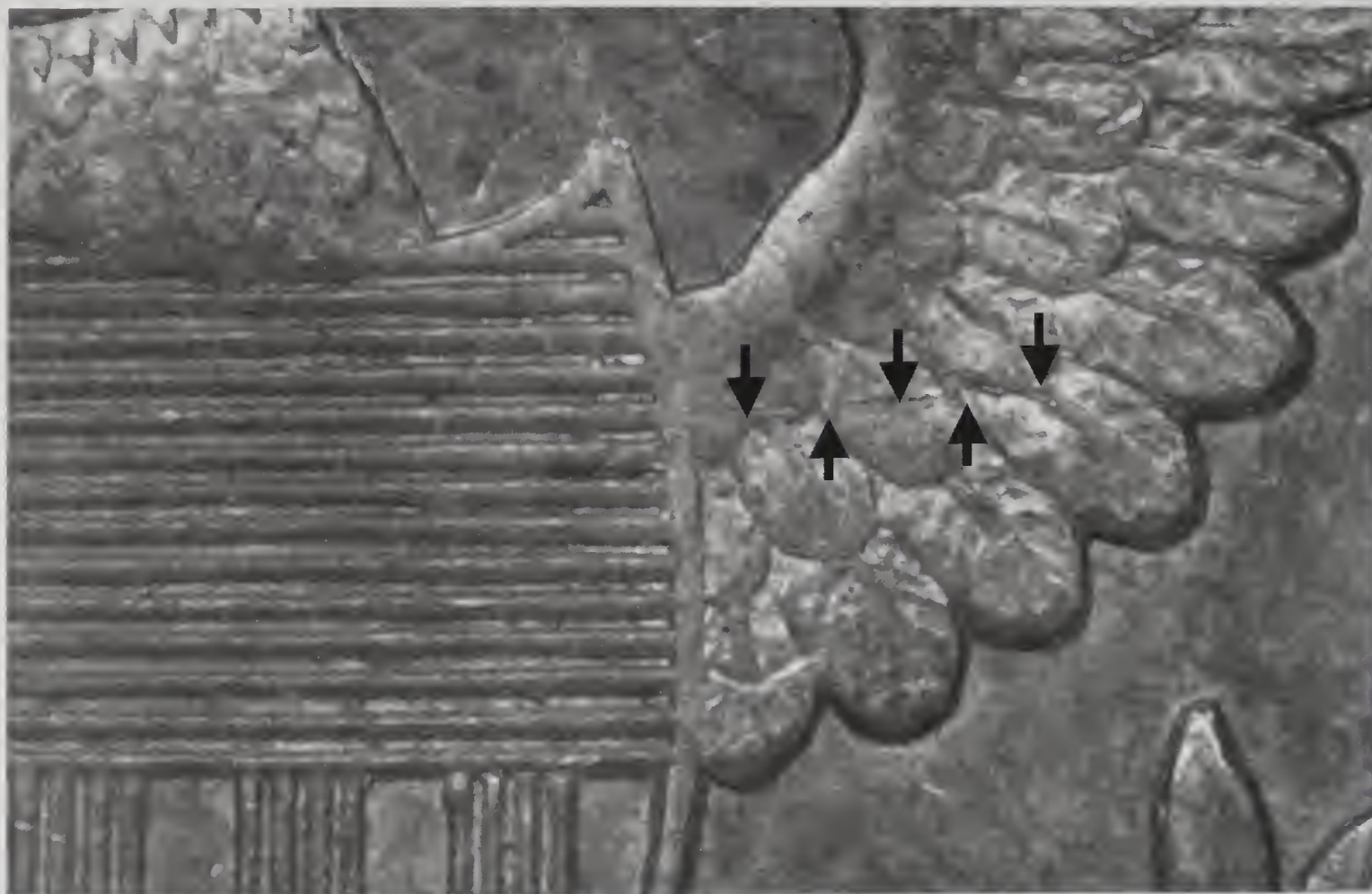
I don't know yet. This subject will be revisited in a future article after more data is compiled and analyzed about the other reverse design elements.

Notes

1. In late 1794 / early 1795, Robert Scot responded to questions posed “from the Committee appointed to examine and report on the state of the mint”. This handwritten document resides in the National Archives. What numismatists refer to today as “Master Die”, Robert Scot referred to as “Original Die”. “Hub” was spelled “Hubb”. “Working Die” was referred to as “Coining Die” or “Die To Strike Money”. “Obverse Die” was referred to as “Head Die”.

References

1. The United States Early Silver Dollars from 1794-1803, M. H. Bolender.
2. Silver Dollars & Trade Dollars Of The United States, A Complete Encyclopedia, Volume One, Q. David Bowers & Mark Borckardt.
3. Auction Results Archive, Heritage Auctions, coins.ha.com.
4. PCGS CoinFacts, www.pcgscointfacts.com.
5. A special thank you goes to W. David Perkins for providing images of Bust Dollar die marriages that I was unable to locate in the Heritage Auction Archives or on PCGS CoinFacts.



1799 BB Reverse J

EAC/JRCS Convention in Newark, Ohio

Dr. Glenn Peterson

The EAC/ JRCS convention was held in rural Newark Ohio with the excellent coordination of Rob and Emily Matuska. On Thursday night we gathered for the "happenings" meeting and displayed numerous examples brought by JRCS members of bust half dime 1836 LM 1, bust dime 1820 JR 2, bust quarter 1836 B3 and bust halves 1807 O-111 and 1823 O-109.

We had 6 examples of the 1836 LM 1.1 and 12 examples of the 1836 LM 1.2. We also displayed examples in mint state of the earlier uses of the reverse die DD as described in the Logan-McCloskey reference on half dimes. The 1835 LM 7 had a perfect reverse, the 1835 LM 8.1 had cracks between D and S1 and cracks above A3, O. The die state of 1835 LM 9.1 showed these cracks and a clash under motto and the 1835 LM 8.2 has cracks at T1, M and the crack at D S now progresses to the scroll. Next the reverse die is paired with the obverse of 1836 with thickening of the crack over E PLURIBUS on the 1836 LM 1.1. The die is paired again with the 1835 die LM 9.2 and we had two mint state examples, one before the cud formed and one just after. Finally the die is used again with 1836 LM 1.2 with a second cud forming at STAT. As it progresses the die sections become loose and the field of the coin rises to the point of obliterating the letters TED of UNITED. Interestingly we had six late state 1836 LM 1.2 graded AU 50, MS 63, MS 66, MS 62 and fine with weakening and, finally, erasure of the letters TED. The metal from the planchet filling this void in turn weakens the obverse stars 3 and 4. These stars were sharp on the 50 and 63 grade examples weak on the 66 grade almost gone on the 62 grade and absent from the fine example. Wear on this circulated example played a part but no letters or part of stars 3 and 4 were visible. Looking at these one could almost imagine the dies breaking apart.

Next the 1820 JR 2 dime showed the faux pas of the coiner in the "office boy" reverse. E1 was punched too low, an extra punch was present between D and S, T3 is too high and recut, S O recut, M double punched and ME of AMERICA joined at both serifs. We had 4 nice examples grading 45, F 15 AU 50 and AU 58.

The bust quarter 1836 B3 was represented with coins grading XF40, MS 64, XF 45 and AU 50. The XF 40 graded coin was in die state a/b. Showing aspects of die state b with crack through 8 on obverse and through 2 on the reverse but no crack from rim-S1 bust as described in die state "b" of Early Quarters of the United State Mint. The remaining examples were die state d with just one showing all the cracks described for this die marriage.

The 1807 O-111 bust half "Bearded Goddess" was represented with 7 examples, two O-111a's with a thin crack chin to chest, 5 B's with a thicker crack chest to chin through the eye splitting to letters I and E on the LIBERTY headband. One beautiful XF+ example also had three short cracks left of the one in the date and had the crack through E of the headband extending through the cap and visible at the very top of the cap near star 8. I have seen a later example that appeared to reach the rim above the cap but none of those present were of that advanced die state.

The 1823 O-109 an R5+ bust half was represented with 5 examples highlighted by a mint state 64 coin and a beautiful high AU details coin. Each coin showed the advanced die state of this die marriage with cracks from 1 through the first 5 stars another from the rim through star 5 across the cap to the rim and from rim through all the right stars through the curls to the one joining the first crack. It was great seeing this many high grade examples of this rare die marriage.

It was great fun meeting with colleagues from JRCS and exhibiting these beautiful coins. Brad Karoleff, Steve Herrman, Jim Mathews, Glenn Peterson, Ted Mc Cauley, Phil Carrigan and Kent Ingram assisted in displaying these coins. Our colleagues in EAC were impressed with the remarriages and late die states of the coins. I showed the half dimes and went through each step in the progression of the die from 1835 to 1836 back to 1835 only to return to 1836 for the dramatic breakup of the die. The copper collectors have very few remarriages in their series and were fascinated at what occurred in the silver coinages. I invite more members in JRCS to join us in Colorado Springs next year to share our collecting interest with so many collectors with diverse interests.

The next day we had a bourse and, yes there were beautiful silver coins available for the astute collector. I found an early die state of the 1828 O-101 half in AU 55 grade before the die chip forms at F. This coin is a critical step in the remarriage 1827 O-108 to 1828 O-101 and back to 1827 O-108 with the F filled. I plan to photograph this coin and the others as part of a presentation at ANA on bust half remarriages. So come to Chicago at the BHNC meeting to hear more...



1836 LM 1.1 Photo courtesy of Richard Meaney



1836 LM 1.2 Photo courtesy of Richard Meaney



1836 B3 Quarter Images courtesy Rory Rea



Two Top Condition Census Early Dollars Where are they Today?

W. David Perkins, NLG

A typed letter from one collector to another dated January 5, 1954 opens with,

I am happy to reply to your letter on the subject of early U.S. silver dollars. I only have a few of this very interesting series, but hope that a listing of them may prove of interest to you.

There are sixteen early silver dollars listed in this two page letter. Two specimens described in this letter were particularly notable. These specimens were given very high grades in the listing and as described in the letter both are high Condition Census, and possibly the finest known specimens for the die marriages. Both of these are Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle silver dollars, one dated 1798 and the other 1800.

The 1798 B-4 Dollar is simply described in the letter as, “Uncirculated, full mint luster.” My initial reaction when I read this old typed letter is “this specimen does not exist” and if it does, where has it been since the late 1800s. I’ve never seen or heard of a Gem 1798 B-4 Dollar.

I quickly recalled a beautiful specimen of the 1798 B-4, BB-92 Dollar that I viewed and tried to purchase at the 2001 ANA Convention in Atlanta. Perhaps it was this specimen, somewhat generously graded? The specimen that showed up at the 2001 Atlanta ANA Convention was absolutely stunning and one of the finest known examples not only of the die marriage, but for all of the six different die marriages for the “Knob 9” Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle 1798 Dollars.



Obverse photo of the finest known and only Mint State example of the 1798 B-4, BB-92 Dollar. Photo courtesy of the Heritage Auction Galleries’ archives, where it is recommended you look it up and view this stunning coin in color!



**Reverse photo of the finest known
1798 B-4 Dollar.**

The Atlanta ANA specimen was lustrous with great eye appeal, beautiful surfaces and color.

I graded it conservatively as AU-58, but it easily could have been called MS-63. I made an offer closer to MS-63 money than AU-58, and many multiples of AU money. My offer was not accepted, much to my disappointment. This was by far the finest specimen of the 1798 B-4 die marriage I'd ever seen and remains the nicest I've ever seen in 30 years of studying and collecting the Dollars of 1798!

The second specimen that stood out in this letter was an example of the 1800 B-2 Dollar die marriage, a solid Rarity-6. It had a more lengthy description, as follows:

Uncirculated full mint luster. This coin is the pride of my early dollars. I have a letter from Mr. Bolender attesting to the superiority of this very rare variety. I have been approached by two prominent collectors to purchase this coin. It probably will be offered in a forthcoming auction to achieve a proper price and rest in a collection where it belongs among other outstanding rarities of the early dollars. This coin was purchased 3/21/45 as lot 520 in a Mehl sale. I think "Worlds (sic) Greatest Collection". I have the original envelope and the coin was graded by Mehl as uncirculated. All of my grading is taken from original sale envelopes wherever possible. Over the past years I have never seen a specimen of this coin offered, either H-2 [Haseltine-2] or B-2 and I have consistently watched for it. Bolender's copy was the first I had run across. It truly is a beautiful and rare coin.

My reaction to the description of this specimen was identical to that for the 1798 B-4 Dollar, "this specimen does not exist" and if it does, where has it been since the late 1800s? I've never seen or heard of a Gem specimen of the 1800 B-2 Dollar die marriage. In addition, no mint state condition specimens of the 1800 B-2, BB-182 die marriage are known to me today. The highest graded specimen of 1800 B-2, BB-182 in the 2013 JRCS Early Dollar Census



Obverse photo of the Luebke specimen of the very rare 1800 B-2, BB-182 silver dollar. This coin was graded NGC EF-45 in the Heritage Auction Galleries sale of The William Luebke Collection of Early Dollars sale in January 2007. The Luebke Collection had 108 of the 118 die marriages of early dollars 1794-1803. Photo courtesy of Heritage Auction Galleries.

is graded AU-55 [NGC AU-55]. The average grade in the census for the die marriage is VF-36.

The next to the last paragraph in this typed letter reads,

To answer your inquiry, I had never thought of selling these coins, but I plan to retire this year, and along with other assets, will be putting these up for auction. One of the large west coast dealers is set to include them in a major sale and assure me a good return due to the excellent condition and the rarer coins. However, if you are interested in the lot, my price is 750.00, which is less than I would net by auction. I must know on this pretty soon as I have to let the dealer know as he is working on the sales catalog now and is awaiting my coins. Full return privileges will be assured you if the coins are not as represented. I take special care in grading my coins and they retain most of the original grading made by reputable dealers many years ago. With the poor equipment the mint used in those days, it's a wonder they are so well preserved today.

So where are these two top Condition Census early dollar die marriages today?

As it turns out, Frank Stirling of Baton Rouge, LA bought all or part of this collection of 16 early dollars, probably shortly after this letter was written in 1954. I would have too for an average of \$67 or so a coin, even back then! For sure he purchased these two specimens. I appraised the balance of the Stirling early dollar collection in 2005. When I appraised the collection I was given a copy of Stirling's collection with pedigree information included. Stirling's collection included a 1798 B-4 and an 1800 B-2 pedigreed to the collector who wrote this letter.

I'm not sure where this 1798 B-4 Dollar is today. I do not believe it is the same as Lot 1336 in the Heritage Numismatic Auctions, Inc. 1986 A.N.A. Mid-Winter Auction, a sale with 25 early dollars from the Stirling Collection (Lots 1321-1345). The specimen of the 1798 B-4 Dollar grade "EF (40/40)" in this sale is listed with a pedigree to the 1952 A.N.A. Sale: 3122 (where called "Very fine and sharp"). A copy of this 1952 public auction sale with buyer's names in the ANS Library shows this specimen was purchased by Frank M. Stirling. This sale took place two years before the letter was written.

My guess is the pedigree as recorded in the 1986 Heritage sale is either in error, or Stirling kept the specimen he purchased in the 1952 A.N.A. Sale and sold or traded the specimen he acquired from the collector who wrote the letter. If Stirling sold this duplicate specimen, it was likely it went to M. H. Bolender (dealer) or one of the die variety specialists active in the 1950s and 1960s. To the best of my knowledge, none of these collectors had 1798 B-4 Dollar in Mint State in any of their collections.

In reality, these two specimens most likely did not grade "Uncirculated, Full Mint Luster" as the collector had stated in his letter. It is of course possible that the 1798 B-4 Dollar is the same as the specimen graded NGC MS63, the one I saw at the Atlanta ANA and tried to purchase. I don't think this is likely but it is possible. This exceptional specimen is one of the highlights of the Miller Collection today and is by far the finest known specimen of this very rare die marriage.

The 1800 B-2 Dollar that Stirling acquired from this collector is still in the Stirling Family Collection today. When I appraised the collection in 2005 I noted regarding this specimen, "Lustre and detail of EF-45+. Especially nice cartwheel lustre noted at reverse peripherals. Cleaned and bright with light hairlines from cleaning." The pedigree for this specimen is having been directly acquired from this collector, and this coin is likely the same specimen as offered in the letter.

While I'd love to believe these two specimens are "out there somewhere" awaiting discovery this is highly unlikely. There were some clues in the letter when one looks back. The first clue was, "I have the original envelope and the coin was graded by Mehl as uncirculated. All of my grading is taken from original sale envelopes wherever possible." The second was, "I take special care in grading my coins and they retain most of the original grading made by reputable dealers many years ago. With the poor equipment the mint used in those days, it's a wonder they are so well preserved today." This collector lacked an understanding of how to grade and of the minting process.

Or are there a couple of "hidden gems" out there somewhere?

Many of the leading early silver dollar specialists were active and successful buyers in the 1952 A.N.A. Convention Sale of August 16th, 18th, 19th, 21st, 1952. This included Frank M. Stirling, Charles Ruby, W. G. Baldenhofer, K. P. Austin and W. Earl Spies. This important sale took place a couple of years after the 1950 publication of the Bolender's *The United States Early Silver Dollars From 1794-1803*.

1952
ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
of the
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
official
PUBLIC AUCTION SALE
IN SIX SESSIONS
DONALD D'AMATO, AUCTIONEER

TO BE CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY:


NUMISMATIC FINE ARTS
EDWARD GANS
101 WEST 55th STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

HANS M. F. SCHULMAN
545 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

HENRY GRUNTHAL
200 HAVEN AVENUE
NEW YORK 33, N. Y.

NEW NETHERLANDS COIN CO., INC.
CHARLES M. WORMSER, President
JOHN J. FORD, JR., Associate
580 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

DNL
SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 16, 1952
MONDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING, AUGUST 18, 1952
TUESDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 19, 1952
THURSDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING, AUGUST 21, 1952
ON THE "SKYTOP" OF
THE HOTEL STATLER
SEVENTH AVENUE, BETWEEN 32nd AND 33rd STREETS
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK



2013 Bust Half Dime - Condition Census

Stephen A. Crain

It has often been stated that, of all the early Federal silver coin denominations, the half dimes are the easiest to complete. And while this may be true, I would hasten to point out that since the inception of the John Reich Collectors Society, and for all of the half dime census surveys that have been conducted by that organization since 1986, only one collector has ever reported a *complete* collection of all die marriages for the early half dimes (Flowing Hair and Draped Bust) (now dispersed), and only one collector has ever reported a *complete* collection of the Capped Bust half dimes, including all remarriages (included in this survey). But for those who might be discouraged by the seemingly high cost to assembling such a collection, I would suggest that there are three key elements which are necessary in order to complete such an endeavor: knowledge, patience, and deep pockets. But deep pockets, alone, will not guarantee success. Experience has shown that intimate knowledge of the details for attribution of the rare die marriages, combined with a huge amount of patience, can often combine, with a more modest budget, to assemble a very respectable collection of these beautiful coins. Careful manipulation of these three variables (knowledge, patience, and discretionary funds) is the formula to success. If you do not possess unlimited funds, then optimize your knowledge and patience.

There were more collectors reporting their holdings of the early (1792, Flowing Hair and Draped Bust) half dimes this time compared with the last survey in 2011 (15 vs. 12). However, a few of the larger and higher grade collections are absent. Many of the reported collections for the early half dime series are small, perhaps representative of type collections, but the value to their owners is no less significant. Owning just one such piece of our common American heritage is deeply rewarding, and owning a collection of even a few is a significant achievement.

For the Capped Bust half dimes (CBHD), there also were more collections reported this time compared with the 2011 census (26 vs. 22). However, the trend with the Capped Bust half dimes was different than for the early series. There was one (1) collection reported with *all* (92) known die marriages, and *all* (50) known remarriages. In addition, there were four (4) collections missing just one die marriage, and another three (3) collections missing just two die marriages. And for the most part, the average grade of these collections was EF, AU, and even mint state for the one complete collection. The degree of completeness and average relative grade for the reported collections has been steadily increasing for the several census surveys that I have compiled over the years.

All coins listed in these tables have been attributed to either the Logan/McCloskey¹ reference or the Valentine² reference. They are cross-referenced in the tables to facilitate easy identification.

There are many caveats which should be fully understood before collectors place too much emphasis on the results of this survey, or attempt to apply the results of this or any similar census survey to their collecting pursuits. These limitations, or biases, may be summarized as follows:

- Limited Sampling: This census was open *only* to JRCS members, and primarily only half dime specialists chose to participate. This represents a very tiny percentage of the total number of collectors, and of the total number of existing half dimes. For example, a total of 13,058,700 Capped Bust half dimes were produced by the Mint during the period of 1829 to 1837. If we assume a very conservative survival rate of just 1%, then 130,587 Capped Bust half dimes would be extant. Yet the approximately 1,953 half dimes reported in this census are just 0.0149% of those. If we use a larger, perhaps more realistic survival rate of 4%, then the half dimes reported in this census represent a mere 0.0037% of the estimated total surviving specimens! In addition, not *all* collections of CBHD's were reported. The author personally knows of at least a half dozen significant collections of CBHD's that were not reported this year, for one reason or another. Also, the coins reported in this census do not represent a random sampling of what is available to collectors in the market place, but represent only those dates, varieties and grades that collectors chose to purchase for their collections.
- One collector, one coin: Most collectors do not purchase coins in direct proportion to the number available in the marketplace. Collectors typically seek just one example of each date and die marriage, and seldom purchase additional examples. On the other hand, if a collector determines that a specific issue is scarce or has good investment potential, he may purchase additional examples as duplicates or for trade. Such practices can skew the census, often making scarce issues appear to be more common.
- Grading opinions: All of the grades shown for all of the reported coins are the grades submitted by the owners. As all grading is subjective, there may be no uniformity of grading for the reported coins. Some of the listed coins are graded by various third party grading services (TPG's), and many

are raw coins graded by their owners. It is commonly believed that there is a typical 5 point difference in grading between the seller and the buyer of any given coin, so some discretionary latitude should be given to the reported grades.

- Attribution opinions: Like grading, there can also be discrepancies between the attributions assigned by different collectors. Long-time students of the series, who have read the first 78 pages of the L/M reference, and who know how to use the remarriage charts, *may* have a better record of accuracy than those who simply rely on the photographic plates to attribute their coins. In general, the *die marriage* attributions can be assumed to be accurate, while the *die remarriage* attributions, particularly for some of the rarest remarriages, may be suspect.
- Upgrading: Many collectors purchase the more difficult die marriages in whatever grade is available at the time, and then seek to upgrade the coin at a later date when available. Once upgraded, collectors often retain the lower grade specimen as a duplicate or for trade. For the more common die marriages, however, collectors may forgo any purchase until the desired grade example comes along. Again, this would tend to skew the census in favor of the scarcer marriages.
- Hoarding: Some collectors develop a particular interest in a specific date, whether for study, investment, or other purpose, and report disproportionate quantities of those dates. These hoards tend to make certain dates appear much more readily available than experience has shown.
- Blind reliance on third party attributions (and grading): Many collectors do not take the time to learn to attribute their half dimes themselves, particularly when distinguishing the often confusing remarriages. They tend to rely on the attributions of the grading services, which have a deplorable record for proper attribution, and should only be accepted with great skepticism, or ignored completely. In addition, too many collectors still attempt to attribute their half dimes using only the photographic plates in the Logan/McCloskey reference, rather than by carefully reading the die state descriptions, and particularly the remarriage charts and all of the valuable information on pages 39 – 78.

In the interest of simplicity and familiarity, the attached Tables 1 and 2, which tabulate all of the reported information, utilize the same format that was adopted for the 2008 census survey, and which was continued for the last (2011) survey.

Only the fifteen (15) most complete and highest grade collections are shown in the tables, listed by membership number. [Several years ago I inquired of Russell Logan, the half dime census keeper at the time, as to the secret wisdom behind the magic number of fifteen collections. He looked around to see if anyone would overhear our private conversation, and then whispered “Only 15 collections would fit on the page”. All this without ever showing the secret handshake!] For the early half dimes, all 15 reported collections are shown on the chart. However, and regrettably, for the CBHD’s, only the 15 most complete and highest grade collections are shown; fully eleven (11) collections are not shown. However, the coins contained in those 11 collections **are included in the census**. In addition, all reported duplicates **are also included in the compilations**, although they are not individually identified in the charts.

Each of the (9) dates for the CBHD series are shown in the left-most column (DATE), and the die marriages (and remarriages as described in the Logan/McCloskey reference), are shown in the next column (L/M). The die marriages are shown highlighted with a white background, while the remarriages are shown highlighted with a gray background. The next column cross references the L/M die marriage numbers to the Valentine (V) numbers. A few collectors elected to report their coins only by Valentine numbers, so their coins are shown using only the generic die marriage number (e.g., 1829 LM-6/V5, highlighted in white), while others, who reported using remarriage numbers, are shown directly below, highlighted in gray (e.g., 1829 LM-6.2). In all cases, the number shown for the generic marriage, directly above the gray-highlighted remarriage numbers, represents the highest grade example for that overall marriage in that collection. This allows for an easy and direct comparison between collections – between those who reported by remarriage numbers and those who did not. The fourth column shows the estimated relative rarity (R) according to the Sheldon rarity scale. The next fifteen columns represent the most complete and highest grade collections, with each coin listed by numerical grade. The most complete collection, with all 92 known die marriages, is shown in the first column, followed, in decreasing order of completeness, by the next 14 collections. In the event of a tie in the number of reported marriages, the highest average grade collection is shown first, with the others following in decreasing order of average grade. Although not shown on the table, all reported collections and all reported duplicates are included in the tabulations. For this reason, some of the totals and counts may not appear to agree with the collections shown.

At the far right hand side of the tables there are three columns which give information about each individual marriage and remarriage. The column marked **PCS** gives the total number of reported pieces for the individual marriage or remarriage. The column marked **AVG** is the average grade of all reported pieces for that marriage or remarriage. And the column marked **MAX** is the highest grade coin reported for the specific marriage or remarriage.

There were no new die marriages discovered or reported for any of the half dime series since the last JRCS census survey in 2011. In addition, there were no reports of any *new* examples of any of the rarest die marriages (1835 LM-12, 1833 LM-5), or apparently of any of the rarer *remarriages* (1829 LM-6.1, 1832 LM-9.2), although not all of the collections reported in this census were reported last time. There are several new respondents to this census, but there is no way to know which of their coins were newly acquired. After consultation with several other Bust half dime experts, we made some very minor adjustments to the rarity estimates for a few remarriages. These include the 1836 LM-1.1, upgraded to an R5 from the previous R4. Anecdotal evidence and collector experience has proven the early remarriage (LM-1.1) to be scarcer than the LM-1.2 with the double cud. Also, the estimated relative rarity of the 1835 LM-5.1 remarriage has been increased to R4, and may very well go higher as more research is conducted. The reason for the change in rarity is due to increased scrutiny of the die state, and the appearance of a tiny die crack above S2 to the rim. By definition, examples with this small die crack are from the LM-5.2 remarriage, potentially moving many examples from the LM-5.1 attribution to the LM-5.2. Collectors are encouraged to closely examine their 1835 LM-5.1 coins, to determine if they might possibly be LM-5.2, with the tiny die crack on the reverse from S2 to the rim. With 17 examples of the 1835 LM-5.1 reported, and 18 examples of the 1835 LM-5.2 reported, these nearly equal numbers do not seem to reflect real world experience, but only further research will tell.

The established method for compiling and reporting census surveys for all of the denominations of the early Federal coinage in the *John Reich Journal* has always been to report the top fifteen or so most complete and highest grade collections, listed by membership number presumably to protect the anonymity of the collectors. Whether intended or not, this has created a sort of “Good old boy” atmosphere, with those whose collections are highlighted feeling good about themselves, and

those whose collections are not listed possibly feeling somewhat slighted. But of potentially greater significance, we might reasonably ask ourselves “Is this present method the most effective means to present the information?” The Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC) has always presented the results of their census surveys as a homogenous listing of all coins reported, listed by grade, with all identification of owners removed. As Russ Logan, who was a master of conciseness, once stated: “The JRCS compiles a census of collections; the LSCC compiles a census of coins”. I thought this would be a good time to float a trial balloon, and ask the membership if they would prefer to see the census coins listed simply as a function of grade. How many were reported in EF, how many in AU, how many in MS-63, and so forth, with all coins listed, but all identification of owners removed. Are we more interested in how many coins exist by grade, or are we more interested in knowing who owns what? I am not taking either side of this issue, but merely asking the question. The editor of the JR Journal tells me I can do pretty much what I like with the census, and I would like to see the half dime census survey be as valuable and meaningful as possible to everyone. I recognize that by changing the format of the half dime survey, the precedent would possibly be established to also change the survey reporting for the other denominations, as well. I tend to be more of a traditionalist, maintaining the status quo, but I can certainly see the value of reporting the census surveys as a function of grades. Let’s hear some comments from all of you. What would you like to see?

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the valuable input from fellow half dime aficionados Richard Meaney and Dr. Glenn Peterson, whose experience and insight help all of us to better understand this fascinating little series.



1800 LM 2
Terminal Die State



1835 LM 5.2
PCGS AU 58

References:

1. Russell J. Logan, John W. McCloskey, *Federal Half Dimes 1792 – 1837*, John Reich Collectors Society, Manchester, MI, 1998.
2. Daniel W. Valentine, *The United States Half Dimes*, American Numismatic Society, New York, NY, 1931.

Notes:

1. There are a total of nineteen (19) die marriages for which there are remarriages. Most collectors consider that there are just thirty-one (31) remarriages. But if we add the 31 supposed remarriages to the 19 original marriages, we have a total of 50 remarriages. Don't believe me? Look at the charts and count them.

CONDITION CENSUS HALF DIMES**1829 LM 7.3 PCGS MS 65****1830 LM 6 PCGS MS 66 Photos courtesy of Richard Meaney**

2013 CAPPED BUST HALF DIME CENSUS																					
DATE	L/M	V	R	323	LM47	326	1354	LM56	ANON	411	LM13	824	835	1057	19	97	1389	275	PCS	AVG	MAX
1829	1	7	2	63	58	62	40	25	64	50	55	55	40	45	50	12			15	47.8	64
	2	3	1	63	58	63	30	45	63	62	50	53		12	40	12		62	17	42	63
	3	2	2	62	58	58	40	35	64	64	30	53	40	10	50	12	64		23	43.7	64
	4	13	3	63	45	62	20	35	64	63	58	58	20	10	30	50			14	44.9	64
	5	6	1	63	58	55	20	25	58	58	50	40	40	15	58	12	30		17	44.1	63
	6	5	5	64	58	58	30	62	63	62	45	50	15	15	45	20					64
	6.1		7	6				15											2	10.5	15
	6.2			45	50	58	8			55				10	45				8	40.8	58
	6.3			64	58	50	30	62	63	62	45	50	15	15					12	45.8	64
	7	4	4	64	65	58	30	45	63	50	58	55	50	20	58	8	8	63			65
	7.1			61	53	58	30		58	50		55	30	20	20			62	12	43.1	62
	7.2			64	53	45	30	40	62	40		30	12		50			63	12	42.4	64
	7.3			64	65	50	4	45	63	45	58	50	50	6	58		8		18	41.8	65
	8	17	6	61	55	45	6	6	58	30	50	40	35		30				11	37.8	61
	9	11	4	62	45	53	20	20	60	45	62	25	30	15	45	25		35	18	37.8	62
	10	16	4	64	61	63	40	12	50	62	55	25	20	12	50	40	8	12	18	38.3	64
	11	18	6	58	60	53	50	8	12	50	53	2				8			10	35.4	60
	12	10	6	62	55	58	12	15	40	50	55	50	40	3	35			50	15	38.2	62
	13	12	1	63	62	62	40	35	63	58	55	58	20	12	58	30	60	61			63
	13.1			62	55	62	40	35	63	58	55	58	20	12	58			61	15	49.1	63
	13.2			63	62	50	20		53	40		55			35		60		9	48.7	63
	14	9	4	61	62	55	40	50	63	50	61	45		30	40	20	55		13	48.6	63
	15	8	4	61	58	58	20	15	55	58	60	20	40	30	40			63			63
	15.1			61	58	58	12		35	40	60	20	40	30	40				11	41.3	61
	15.2			58	25	40	20	15	55	58				12				63	16	40.8	63
	16	14	2	64	55	62	20	35	64	60	63	55		12			64				64
	16.1			64	55	53	20	35		60	63	20		12					11	42.5	64
	16.2			63	45	62			64	58		55		10			64		8	52.6	64
	17	15	4	63	63	55	50	50	66	55	55	40	40	7	35	55		62	16	50.1	66
	18	1	4	58	53	58	20	40	63	58	58	12	50	8	40	40	4	50	21	35.2	63
1830	1	10	4	64	63	63	40	45	64	45	62	50	50	12	55	40	15	64			64
	1.1		6	8	61			40	25			45	12					64	8	32.9	64
	1.2			64	63	63	40	45	64	45	62	50	50	12	55		15		26	37.2	64
	2	9	3	65	55	55	45	58	63	63	50	30	40	20	50	8		62	19	43.3	65
	3	8	2	64	55	55	50	25	65	63	50	30	20	8	58	12			17	42.8	65
	4	3	2	63	58	59	58	25	64	63	50	58	40	12	60	50					64
	4.1			60	53	59	58	25	63		50	50	40	12	20				11	44.5	63
	4.2			63	58	55	50	25	64	63		58			60				11	55.6	64
	5	13	6	65	35	55	25	45	30	10	12		15						12	31.8	65
	6	4	4	65	66	58	50	25	63	58	63	8	25	15	55		10	61	19	42.2	66
	7	7	2	63	60	58	40	25	63	58	50	55	25	12	40	30	61		18	43.5	63
	8	6	1	61	63	58	58	45	63	58	45	50	40	12	55		50		18	51.3	64
	9	5	4	64	63	58	40	6	62	62	50	58	50	15	58	20	53				64
	9.1			64	63	58	20	6	62	62	15	45	35	8	58		12		14	38.8	64
	9.2			62	58	55	40			53	50	58	50	15	58		53		13	50.4	62
	10	12	6	53	55	61	12	55	50	25	35	12			35			20	12	38.6	61
	11	14	6	58	40	53	10	55	20	15	25	30			20			15	13	29.8	58
	12	11	4	64	62	55	45	30	62	55	40	45	50	10	45	20			16	43.9	64
	13	2	3	60	55	58	40	62	64	45	55	58	45	10	53	55			14	51.1	64
	14	1	3	62	62	58	58	18	64	63	30	45	25	12	40	20			15	42.5	64
1831	1	6	1	63	65	58	50	45	65	60	55	50	30	12	58	20					65
	1.1			45	65	30	50		45				12		40				8	43.6	65
	1.2			61	63	50	12		63	60		40	30	10	58				12	44.3	63
	1.3			63	55	58	40	45	65	55	55	50	10	12	45				25	34.1	65
	2	7	3	65	55	60	35	35	65	62	55	53	12	12	20	15			25	39.1	65
	3	2	4	65	58	60	45	25	62	62	62	40	25	55	58	20		64	21	44.3	65
	4	4	2	63	62	61	12	12	66	64	40	45	15	8					11	40.7	66
	5	5	1	61	64	62	45	15	63	63	45	25	12	45	60	20	50		21	41.1	64
	6	1	1	64	66	62	45	50	50	61	58	55	20	15	58	55			30	49.3	66
	7	3	2	63	63	58	40	8	65	58	50	58	8	12		15	55	64	16	43.6	65

2013 CAPPED BUST HALF DIME CENSUS

DATE	L/M	V	R	323	LM47	326	1354	LM56	ANON	411	LM13	824	835	1057	19	97	1389	275	PCS	AVG	MAX
1832	1	10	4	63	53	55	55	35	65	64	58	12	30	12	40				13	42.6	65
	2	3	3	63	58	63	20	35	65	53	58	53	30	10		20			13	44.5	65
	3	1	1	62	58	62	20	8	67	50	55	58	12	45	50	45		64	21	47.8	67
	4	12	4	63	55	58	40	45	63	62	50	45	10	12	30	45		50	21	44.1	66
	5	8	1	64	53	58	63	45	64	60	62	55	20	10	45	55			35	44.6	64
	6	11	4	65	63	55	20	35	64	45	40	25	12	12	55	45	62		18	39.6	65
	7	9	2	64	58	63	45	35	63	63	45	58	20	15	50	20			25	45.4	65
	8	5	3	64	65	61	50	45	62	62	55	53	45	12	40	50					65
	8.1			64	65	58	50	20	55	64		53	12		40				12	50.1	65
	8.2		5	62	61	40	20		40	62		45	20		40				11	42.5	62
	8.3		5	45	55	61		45	58	50			10						9	43.8	61
	8.4			63	55	45	20	45	62	58	55	20	45	12	35				14	43.2	63
	8.5			61	62	40	50	25	55	45		15							9	44.2	62
	9	14	6	66	58	45	20	20	55	55	58	40	8		4			63			66
	9.1			66	55	45	20	12	55	55	58	40	8		4			63	12	40.1	66
	9.2		7	10	58			20											3	29.3	58
	10	13	3	65	63	63	8	35	50	50	50	40	30	20	50	20	40				65
	10.1			62	63	45	8		50	63		40	30	20			40		10	42.1	63
	10.2		6	45	45	25									45				5	36	45
	10.3		5	65	30	4		35						8	20				6	27	65
	10.4			64	30	63	3	25		20	50				50				14	36.6	64
	11	4	5	65	45	58	62	35	62	61	30	55	50	12	40	30		12			65
	11.1			64	45	58	4	35	62	30		55	30	12	40			12	15	31.9	64
	11.2			65	45	50	62	25	50	61	30	53	50		20				12	43.3	65
	12	2	2	63	64	58	40	20	66	50	25	40	12	15	58	55	55		20	44.3	66
	13	6	3	63	58	61	20	25	63	55	58	60	45	15	58	20	25		16	44.2	63
	14	7	4	63	64	58	45	40	55	40	20	12	4	8	40		62		16	36.3	64
1833	1	7	3	63	64	58	12	35	63	63	50	63	20	25	55	20			27	40.1	64
	2	9	6	62	55	55	20	25	45	40	55	12	12		12				13	34.5	62
	3	4	2	64	63	62	50	45	62	64	62	61	50	12	58	20					64
	3.1			64	63	62	12	45	60	53		55		12	45				10	47.1	64
	3.2			64	63	55	40		62	64	30	18	50	12					10	45.8	64
	3.3			61	58	55	50			63		61	25	12	58				10	46.3	63
	3.4			62	55	58	20			55	62	35		8					9	40.2	62
	3.5		7	50	40	35							30						4	38.8	50
	4	3	2	64	61	61	50	45	66	58	62	53	60	10	50	40	62				66
	4.1			64	58	50	50			45	55	20	30	10	50		62		14	44.6	64
	4.2			55	61	55		45	66	53		53	60						8	56	66
	4.3		5	45	45	61	12		64	58	62	12					58		11	44.3	64
	5	10	7	61		20	35												3	38.7	61
	6	8	6	64	50	55	12	20	40	62	63	20	4		35			65	14	39.1	65
	7	5	2	63	63	58	12	40	62	58	58	20	30	45	55	20		53	23	44.4	63
	8	2	3	62	63	58	40	10	66	40	55	55	20	10	45	30		63	16	45.6	66
	9	6	2	63	58	55	40	12	64	63	63	60	50	20	40	20	40	66	16	47.1	66
	10	1	1	64	65	58	20	35	64	62	40	20	30	6		40		63	16	45.3	65
1834	1	5	2	63	64	58	50	15	67	62	63	40	25	20	40	50			25	45.8	67
	2	1	1	63	66	58	40	30	65	62	50	58	40	12	58	45		62	28	43.9	66
	3	2	3	62	58	61	25	50	60	64	45	30	20	20		3	55		17	45.9	64
	4	4	1	64	63	58	20	20	63	63	55	58	12	8	45	50	64		22	46.5	64
	5	3	3	64	62	55	12	45	63	58	45	58	15	8		20	35	55	15	42.7	64
1835	1	2	2	62	63	55	12	12	64	45	58	45	50	12	55	40	53		26	39.7	64
	2	8	4	63	63	58	12	30	58	63	50	55	15	10	50	12	62	55	16	41.6	63
	3	3	1	63	63	58	20	18	62	50	55	58	20	8	40	20	55		27	37.5	63
	4	11	3	62	61	61	45	30	64	58	62	50	50	45	45	40	40		24	47.8	64
	5	10	3	63	61	58	20	50	65	64	55	55	15	12	50	53	35				65
	5.1		4	58	50	55	20	12	65	62	25	4	15	10	45		35		17	40.5	65
	5.2			63	61	58	20	50		63	55	55	8	12	50				18	41.9	63
	6	9	2	62	58	62	50	35	65	40	20	30	8	15	40	40			16	39.1	65
	7	4	3	64	65	58	20	45	66	64	45	20	20	10	50	50	45	62	17	46.4	66
	8	5	2	63	55	61	50	40	67	58	40	45	55	8	55		64	64			67
	8.1			58	55	58	45	8	67	58		45	55	8				64	17	41.5	67
	8.2			63	55	61	50	40		55	40	40			55		64		15	49.5	64
	9	6	2	64	63	58	30	35	55	62	50	58	30	12	45	40	40				64
	9.1			64	55	58	30	35	55	50	40	58	30	12	45		40		15	43.8	64
	9.2			62	63	53	20	8		62	63	18	6		30				18	27.4	63
	10	7	1	65	50	55	50	25	66	50	40	55	40	8	30	30	55		30	37.6	66
	11	1	4	63	58	58	20	30	65	50	40	20	20	20	50	30	50		19	42.5	65
	12		8	45	35			4											3	28	45

2013 CAPPED BUST HALF DIME CENSUS																					
DATE	L/M	V	R	323	LM47	326	1354	LM56	ANON	411	LM13	824	835	1057	19	97	1389	275	PCS	AVG	MAX
1836	1	5	4	66	64	58	30	45	61	50	63	40	30	12	50		40				66
	1.1		5	50	55	55	30		61	50	58		30				10		15	35.7	61
	1.2			66	64	58	12	45	60	35	63	40	12	12	50		40		31	25.6	66
	2	1	3	62	58	55	30	50	62	55	55	45	12	20	50	12			21	42.3	62
	3	4	1	63	66	55	35	45	65	58	45	45	4	12		50		62	32	39.7	66
	4	2	2	66	55	58	40	45	65	50	30	50	12	6		8			15	39.3	66
	5	6	2	66	64	61	40	40	65	64	60	45	30	12	53	50	45		26	43.5	66
	6	3	3	61	55	58	40	25	64	53	50	50	12	7		30	62	62	20	42.7	64
	7	7	4	64	55	61	50	25	45	50	25	20	20	12	40				18	44.3	64
1837	1	3	1	64	63	62	35	12	66	58	20	50	20	12	50	15			20	41.7	66
	2	4	4	61	45	50	20	35	63	58	45	12	40	12	45	20	8	20	19	29.3	63
	3	5	5	58	45	30	4	30	6	50	40	45	8		35	20		45	18	25.1	58
	4	2	3	63	61	58	12	15	63	55	40	35	10	10	30	12	50	58	18	37.9	63
	5	1	1	63	65	53	12	45	63	58	60	30	20	12	45	20	55	63	20	41.6	65
TOTAL MARRIAGES				92	91	91	91	91	90	90	90	89	84	81	78	72	40	37	92 KNOWN		
AVERAGE GRADE				62.7	58.4	57.3	32.9	32.07	59.61	55	49.3	42.3	27.2	15.2	45.4	29.2	44.6	53.4			
TOT REMARRIAGES				50	49	47	41	32	35	42	25	39	34	29	33	0	14	8	← See Note 1		

2013 FLOWING HAIR & DRAPED BUST HALF DIME CENSUS																					
CURRENT COLLECTIONS																					
DATE	L/M	V	R	323	950	97	429	275	LM13	893	1387	411	510	LM56	1390	519	1195	49	PCS	AVG	MAX
1792	1	1	3														6		1	6	6
1794	1	1	6	55			53	20											3	42.667	55
	2	2	5		45					45									2	45	45
	3	3	4																0	0	0
	4	4	4			10													1	10	10
1795	1	1	6	64				45											2	54.5	64
	2	10	7	61					30										2	45.5	61
	3	2	5																0	0	0
	4	3	6	55								40				10			3	35	55
	5	9	6	30				40											2	35	40
	6	7	6	30	40			30	35										5	29.4	40
	7	8	6	20		25		45											3	30	45
	8	5	3									53	8						2	30.5	53
	9	6	4								10								1	10	10
	10	4	3																0	0	0
1796	1	1	3			8													1	8	8
	2	2	6	40	40	3									12				4	23.75	40
1797	1	2	3		58	40	50			45	15								5	41.6	58
	2	4	4		62	10	12												3	28	62
	3	3	5	50															1	50	50
	4	1	6	30															1	30	30
1800	1	1	3	30		8	25			58	40		15						7	26.286	58
	2	3	7	58	12				8										3	26	58
	3	2	4	40															1	40	40
	4	4	7	20	20														2	20	20
1801	1	3	7	8					20						1				3	9.6667	20
	2	1,2	4	53	45	8	35								4			4	6	24.833	53
1802	1	1	5			3													1	3	3
1803	1	3	6	45	55		10												3	36.667	55
	2	1	4	53	62														2	57.5	62
	3	2	3			25	30												2	27.5	30
1805	1	1	4	30	45	8													3	27.667	45
COINS OWNED				19	11	11	7	5	4	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	32 KNOWN		
AVERAGE GRADE				40.63	44	13.45	30.71	36	23.25	49.33	21.67	46.5	11.5	2.5	12	10	6	4			

Second Example of the Rare 1802 JR-1 Dime Discovered by David W. Lange

I spend my weekday afternoons attributing all manner of USA coin varieties from half cents through patterns, but I never expect to see anything too exciting when going through a box of coins submitted to NGC under its Economy Tier. These are coins valued at \$300 or less, and the varieties found therein consist primarily of VAMs, Cherrypickers and other more or less modern coins. In fact, it's a treat to see any early federal issues at all in Economy submissions. In mid-May of this year I was really surprised to see an 1802 dime flagged for variety attribution. This is not a common coin in any grade, and I therefore assumed that it would turn out to be one of the more available JR varieties.



The obverse die was quickly identified as Number 1, and so it seemed that all I had to do was determine whether the reverse was B (JR-2) or C (JR-3). Imagine my surprise when it proved to be neither of those dies. This left only Reverse A, unique to marriage JR-1, which was itself represented by only a single known specimen. I was reluctant to accept that possibility, so I re-checked the coin's reverse with the same result. Then it was time to compare the dime with the JR book's plate photos of the unique JR-1. There was absolutely no doubt that this coin was a match for the variety, despite its heavily worn condition.

This was an important enough discovery that I sent high resolution photos of the subject coin to Brad Karoleff, who then shared them with Ed Price. Both were in agreement with my attribution, and Ed confirmed that this was only the second example known. That's pretty remarkable given the fact that dime collectors have certainly been checking every 1802 dime since the first specimen was identified many years ago.

NGC graded this new example as Good Details, Repaired and Whizzed. While it won't win any beauty contests, the dime is actually nicer than the description suggests. Its wear is quite even, and it displays a pleasing color for a coin subjected to such mishandling. Because it did not receive a numeric grade, the new JR-1 will be excluded from the NGC Census, but collectors should update their JR books to note its existence.

The dime was submitted by coin dealership Ossie's, which had no knowledge of its rarity until informed by NGC. The company has not announced any plans for this coin, but dime specialists will likely be aware of its movements henceforth.

Some Thoughts on a Possible Terminal Die State of the 1830 JR8 Dime

Louis Scuderi

1830 dimes, in contrast to those of 1829, are characterized by a significant number of obverse and reverse CUDS marking the terminal die states of these marriages (Table 1). Of the four terminal obverses for 1830, Obverse 1 (1830 JR1, 2 and 3) and Obverse 2 (1830 JR4 and 5) failed with CUDS (see Table 1) while Obverse 3 (1830 JR6 and 8) and Obverse 4 (1830 JR7) are not presently known with terminal CUD's. All of the reverses, with the exception of Reverse N used for 1830 JR6, are known to have failed with reverse CUDS.

Table 1. Obverse and Reverse Dies late 1829 to early 1831. Reused indicates that a die was used in a later marriage. Boldfaced text indicates known failures. Unknown indicates that the terminal state has either not been found or possibly does not exist with a CUD. Obv. denotes the number of the obverse from each year while Rev. denotes the reverse die in the small sized capped bust dime series (where A= 1829 JR1 reverse die).

Table 1

Year/ Variety	O b v	Terminal Obverse	Obverse Failure	R e v	Terminal Reverse	Reverse Failure
1829 JR10	7	1829 JR10	Bisecting Die crack	I	1830 JR2	<u>Reused</u>
1829 JR11	5	1829 JR11	<i>Unknown</i>	J	1830 JR1	<u>Reused</u>
1829 JR12	6	1829 JR12	<i>Unknown</i>	K	1832 JR1	<u>Reused</u>
1830 JR1	1	1830 JR3	<u>Reused</u>	J	1830 JR1	CUD above UNI
1830 JR2	1	1830 JR3	<u>Reused</u>	I	1830 JR2	Reverse CUD
1830 JR3	1	1830 JR3	CUD above S8-9	L	1830 JR3	CUDs above NIT and IC
1830 JR4	2	1830 JR5	<u>Reused</u>	M	1830 JR4	CUD rim to M
1830 JR5	2	1830 JR5	CUD dentils above turban	N	1830 JR6	<u>Reused</u>
1830 JR6	3	1830 JR8	<u>Reused</u>	N	1830 JR6	<i>Unknown</i>
1830 JR7	4	1830 JR7	<i>Unknown</i>	O	1831 JR1	<u>Reused</u>
1830 JR8	3	1830 JR8	Bisecting Die crack	O	1831 JR1	<u>Reused</u>
1831 JR1	1	1831 JR1	<i>Unknown</i>	O	1831 JR1	<i>Unknown</i>



Figure 1
1830 JR8 VLDS

Recently I found an 1830 JR8 Very Late Die State (VLDS) dime (Figure 1) that shows an interesting contrast to the failure pattern found on other 1830 dies. The obverse of this coin is much later than that described in **Early United States Dimes** (EUSD-Davis et al., 1984) and in the Logan sale that notes;

“The obverse has a crack from ribbon through lower hair curls to the border left of star 13 and another extremely weak crack from border through star 2 into the field. Tiny die chips are noted inside lower curve of 3 and inside upper right curve of 0. Perfect reverse.”

My VLDS example has a strong die crack from the ribbon through the hair curls extending to the border (Figure 2) and a pronounced crack from the border through the top point of star 2 that continues weakly towards the intersection of the chin and neck. Additional cracks extend from below star 1 through stars 2, 3, 4 and finally reaching the rim above its outer point of star 5. Two additional cracks extend from the rim above star 2 to the lower and outer points. The dentils between these two cracks clearly show an offset indicating the beginning of an obverse CUD. An additional dentil offset where the crack from star 1 meets the rim suggests that this piece of the die was also at a slightly different level than the rest of the die. Interestingly, once you become aware of these cracks and offsets it is possible to identify these dentil offsets in Middle to Late die states of the variety suggesting that the die began failing well before it was retired.



Figure 2
Detail of left stars,
die cracks highlighted
on right panel



Figure 3
Detail of right stars,
die crack highlighted
on right panel

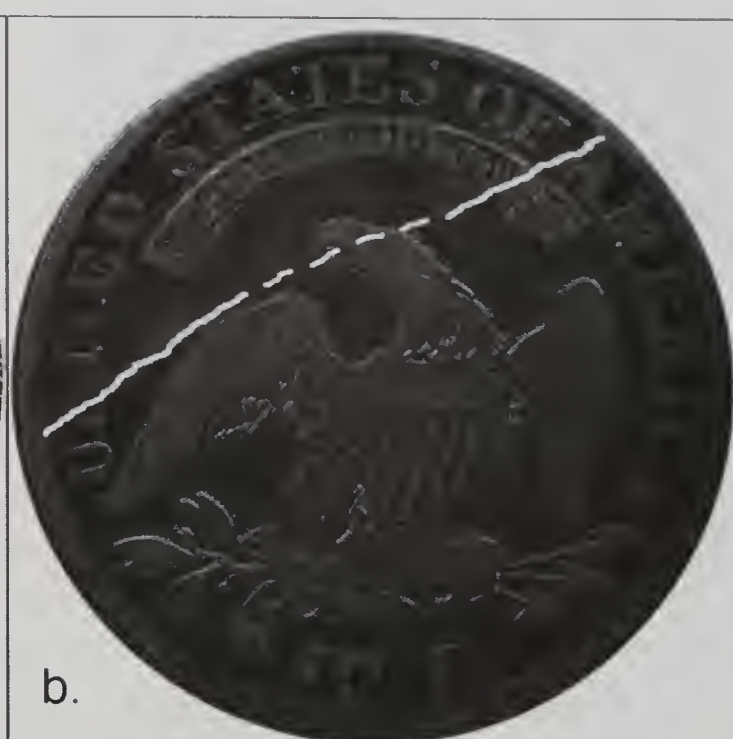
What makes this die failure different than other 1830 obverse and reverse failures, and in fact unlike other small size bust dime die failures, is what I believe to be a coupled crack that extends from the rim through the bottom points of star 10 which continues to the central device above the end of the ribbon (Figure 3). This crack is not listed in EUSD or noted in the Logan sale, however it can be faintly seen on some LDS examples of the variety. In figure 4a, I have drawn a connecting dotted line between the interior end points of the left and right cracks and suggest that this is a bisecting crack that flexed in the center rather than breaking. This bisecting crack/flexure intersects the crack through the ribbon (also shown in Figure 4a) and the interaction between the two may explain the failure of the bisecting crack to appear across the central device. This is similar to the 1812 O-106 half reverse (Figure 4b) that developed a bisecting crack and that also shows some degree of flexure as it crosses the center of the reverse.

While it is possible that the obverse die, much like the 1829 JR10 obverse (Scuderi, 2011), finally failed with a bisecting crack, it is more likely that the terminal state resulting in die retirement has a full CUD at star 2 much like the CUD that failed at star 8 and 9 on 1830 JR3 (Scuderi, 2008, 2012). Additional CUD die failures between star 2 and star 1, and between the die crack across the upper points of star two and the center point of star 2, are possible. It remains to be seen if this terminal state with CUDS will be found.



a.

Figure 4a



b.

Figure 4b

Bisecting flexure cracks

1830 JR8

1812 O-106

References:

Davis et al., 1984. Early United States Dimes: 1796-1837. John Reich Collectors Society, Ypsilanti, Michigan. 279 p.

Scuderi, L.A., 2008. An Extremely Late Die State, Triple Cud, 1830 JR-3 Dime. JRJ Whole Number 57, December 2008.

Scuderi, L.A., 2011. The 1829 JR10 Curl Base Two Dime Revisited. JRJ Whole Number 63, July 2011.

Scuderi, L.A., 2012. The Missing Piece: The Terminal Die State of 1830 Obverse 1 Dime. JRJ Whole Number 66, May 2012.

Continuation of Mint Survivorship & Estimated Scarcity

By Mike Rupert

I thought I'd sent this along because of two things: a typo in the table of my previous article and some thoughts in general about small Capped quarters in today's market. At some point, every collector has to strike a balance in the cost of acquisition. This has become more difficult with the explosion of interest in Bust coins and in prices for better specimens.

Let's start with the error. The table showed the estimated survivorship as 440,420 which is a typo. It should have read 420,420. Then the math works out and the R1 total for that 10% premise is confirmed at 50,401. Several people shared their opinions and concurred that the number of total estimated survivorship is probably closer to 1.3% of the overall mintage supporting my measure of the situation.

Second, I have really begun to contemplate my predicament of acquiring those last few specimens. Using various auction and dealer web sites, I have amassed a respectable library of picture files used to practice attribution skills and for research. I concentrate on high grade examples of the more common dies and obverse and reverse pictures for the scarcer varieties. I keep pictures of problem free certified coins and avoid ones net graded for cleaning or damage only making exceptions for the truly rare varieties such as 31 B7 or 36 B5. This keeps in line with my goal of only owning specimens that fit certain criteria. It is getting much harder to do, but I believe a man's reach should exceed his grasp, otherwise why bother.

So while organizing those files, an interesting trend emerged which I thought was important enough to share. I have pictures of 15 different 31 B3 (20% of the total estimated survivors) and 11 pictures of 37 B5 (15% of the total estimated survivors). And remember, that's just the "problem free certified examples." So, is it possible that they might R4's instead of R5's and are the prices we are being asked to pay for these varieties excessive?

It is somewhat overwhelming how rapidly our market went from pricing the coin based on its grade to pricing it based on its die marriage. I miss the days when cherry picking opportunities abounded, grading was a hard earned skill and the market was not dominated by excess. We should hope that the quintessential experience for most new collectors is not forever lost – the feeling one gets when all the effort of learning a new hobby finally pays off.



Hours Worked & Salaries Paid at the Mint During the 1790's

David Finkelstein

Elias Boudinot became the third Director of the United States Mint in October, 1795. Shortly thereafter, he documented and published the major roles and responsibilities for the various departments, clerks and officers of the Mint¹. You can order a copy of Boudinot's publication on amazon.com. It is a modern reprint of the 1795 original.

As per page 10 of Boudinot's document:

"All accounts against the Mint for work done, materials found, or services performed (excepting the commissioned officers of the Mint) must be exhibited to the proper clerk on the last day of the month by 12 o'clock at noon except the same shall happen on a Sunday and then on the previous day, or they will be postponed. Payment will be made on the next working day at 12 o'clock, and at no other time, special cases of persons living at a distance excepted."

As per page 33:

"The time of work and labour in the Mint, shall be understood by all employed therein, to be 11 hours in each day – and shall from the 10th of March, to the 10th of May, and from the 10th of September, to the 10th of November begin at 6 o'clock in the morning, and continue till 7 o'clock in the evening, allowing from 8 till 9 o'clock for breakfast, and from 1, till 2 o'clock for dinner. – From the 10th of May, till the 10th of September, begin at 5 o'clock in the morning, and continue till 7 o'clock in the evening, allowing from 8 till 9 o'clock for breakfast, and from 1 o'clock till 3 for dinner. – From the 10th of November to the 10th of March begin at 7 o'clock in the morning and continue till 8 o'clock in the evening, allowing 2 hours for breakfast and dinner."

Based on the above 2 excerpts:

1. The Mint work week was 6 days, Monday through Saturday.
2. The employees of the Mint worked 11 hours each day or 66 hours each week. Depending on the time of year, employees were at the Mint 13 hours each day and were allowed 2 hours for meals, or employees were at the Mint 14 hours each day and were allowed 3 hours for meals.
3. All employees, other than the officers of the Mint, were to be paid once per month, at the end of the month.

Based on Mint warrants and the Labor Books available at the National Archives in Philadelphia, officers and clerks were usually paid once every 3 months, at the end of the March, June, September and December². Some warrants exist for officers and clerks getting paid for a 6 month period. All other employees and laborers were usually paid once a month³. Note that it was common for some employees to receive multiple cash advances prior to pay day. The advances were as little as \$1.00, and no more than \$5.00. If advances were made, an employee's pay was adjusted accordingly on pay day.

Hours Worked & Salaries Paid at the Mint During the 1790's

Assuming 365 days per year and 52 Sundays (non-working days) per year, there was an average of 313 work days or 3,443 work hours per year (as compared to an average of 250 work days or 2,000 work hours per year today). That averages out to 26 work days per month. With 11 work hours per day, a Mint employee worked an average of 286 hours per month during the late 18th century. Unlike employment practices of today, there was no paid vacation when employed by the Mint in the 1790's.

The following table identifies the names of many of the employees that worked at the Mint during, 1795, 1796, and/or 1797, their positions, their yearly salaries, and their monthly, daily and hourly pay rates. The table is sorted from highest to lowest salary. Note that some employees received raises, and their salaries increased \$1.00 per month. Those raises are not reflected in the table.

Last, First Name	Position	Yearly Salary	Monthly Pay	Daily Pay	Hourly Pay
Boudinot, Elias	Director	2,000.00	166.66	6.41	.58
Voigt, Henry	Chief Coiner	1,500.00	125.00	4.81	.44
Richardson, Joseph	Assayer	1,500.00	125.00	4.81	.44
Ott, David	Melter & Refiner Pro Tem	1,200.00	100.00	3.85	.35
Scot, Robert	Engraver	1,200.00	100.00	3.85	.35
Way, Nicholas	Treasurer	1,200.00	100.00	3.85	.35
Gardner, Jonathon	Assistant Engraver	936.00	78.00	3.00	.27
Thomas, Nathan	Treasurer's Clerk	700.00	58.33	2.24	.20
Cope, John	Head Adjuster	500.00	41.67	1.60	.15
Eckfeldt, Adam	Forger & Turner, later Assistant Coiner	500.00	41.67	1.60	.15
Hough, Isaac	Director's Clerk	500.00	41.67	1.60	.15
Schreiner, John	Chief Pressman & Foreman	500.00	41.67	1.60	.15
Sharpe, Lodewyck	Chief Coiner's Clerk	500.00	41.67	1.60	.15
LaChaise, Peter	Chief Melter	400.00	33.33	1.28	.12
Littlewood, William	Smith	400.00	33.33	1.28	.12
Summers, Martin	Doorkeeper & Watchman	400.00	33.33	1.28	.12
Germon, Joseph	Drawer	350.00	29.17	1.12	.10
Healey, William	Roller	350.00	29.17	1.12	.10
Ketting, William	Millwright	350.00	29.17	1.12	.10
Klumbach, Eberhart	Assisting Melter	350.00	29.17	1.12	.10
Miers, George	Assistant to the Assayer	350.00	29.17	1.12	.10
Sinderling, Nicholas	Annealer	350.00	29.17	1.12	.10
Baum, Christian	Pressman	300.00	25.00	0.96	.09
Seyfert, Adam	Hostler	300.00	25.00	0.96	.09
Walters, Adam	Cutter	300.00	25.00	0.96	.09
Ward, John	Miller	300.00	25.00	0.96	.09
Keyser, John	Pressman	250.00	20.83	0.80	.07
Miers, Barny	Cleaner	250.00	20.83	0.80	.07
Bay, John	Boy & Coiner	205.92	17.16	0.66	.06

Hours Worked & Salaries Paid at the Mint During the 1790's

The highest paid employee at the Mint was the Director. His salary was \$2,000.00 per year, \$166.66 per month, or 58 cents per hour. So far, my research has determined that the lowest paid male employee was John Bay. He was identified as a "Boy & Coiner" and was paid at a rate of 6 cents per hour. According to George G. Evans⁴, two women, Rachael Summers and Sarah Waldrake, worked at the Mint as Adjusters, and were paid 50 cents per day or 4 ½ cents per hour. Wow!!!

Additional names and daily pay rates are documented in Evans' book, however I have not yet been able to verify them with Mint records at the National Archives. Those names, including Rachael Summers and Sarah Waldrake, were therefore omitted from the table.

References

1. Orders and Directions for Conducting The Mint Of The United States, Established By Elias Boudinot, Director Of Said Mint. November 2, 1795, John Fenno, Philadelphia, 1796.
2. Warrant Books & Stubs, Records of the Bureau of the Mint, National Archives And Records Administration, Record Group 104.
3. Labor Book, Records of the Bureau of the Mint, National Archives And Records Administration, Record Group 104.
4. Illustrated History of the United States Mint With a Completed Description of American Coinage, George G. Evans, Philadelphia, 1885



Ye Olde Mint
Courtesy Len Augsburg and Joel Orosz

Who Consigned the Half Dimes in the Merkin September 1968 Sale?

W. David Perkins, NLG

The Lester Merkin *Public Auction Sale – September 18, 1968* sale is a favorite sale catalog of mine. Most of my interest has been centered on the over 200 silver dollars consigned to this sale by the Ostheimers.

In this sale is a wonderful collection, or group, of early and Seated half dimes 1794-1873. I've always wondered who consigned all of these half dimes to this sale. The introduction reads;

EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTION OF HALF DIMES

Though basically a date and mintmark collection, the present offering is rich enough in rarities and finest knowns to rank with the Helfenstein cents, the collection of dimes in our April 1966 sale, and the Helfenstein /Judd half cents in our March 1968 auction. In researching the collection, we found that extensive offerings of half dimes have been very few in the past generation, the two most important (WGC, Milton Holmes) having a few more early varieties than the present lot but-like the rest-inferior condition in many dates and mintmarks. Because the small size of half dimes makes actual-size illustrations nearly useless, we are picturing the most important specimens in enlargement, the better to display their quite eyebrow-raising quality. To our minds, the 1801, 1803, 1805 and 1853 O No Arrows will not be excelled in the foreseeable future, and are not likely to be equaled in the next generation.

The only pedigree information provided was for Lot 127, the 1802 V-1 half dime: ex. George Walton:459, ex. Century sale:506. The other early half dime rarities mentioned in the introduction were the 1801 V-2 (R-5) in AU+; and the 1803 V-3 Small Date (Borderline R-7), AU; 1805 V-1, BU (Finest Known). There was also a 1794 V-2 (R-6) and a 1797 V-1 Thirteen Stars (R-6). Rarity ratings and commentary are that of the cataloger.

I've asked this question to many specialists, numismatists and bibliophiles in the past and will ask it here one more time – does anyone know who consigned this wonderful collection of half dimes to this sale? Can anyone help solve this mystery? Thanks.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Wednesday Evening

SEPTEMBER 18th, 1968

7:00 P.M.

DRAKE HOTEL
(Devon A. Room)
Park Ave. & 56th St.
New York City

EXTRAORDINARY UNITED STATES COINS

RARE HALF CENTS — COMPLETE SET OF HALF DIMES
EARLY SILVER — BOOSEL'S 1873 COINS
EARLY DOLLARS — GOBRECHT GOLD DOLLAR, 1880 STELLA
1884 \$20 — OTHER RARE GOLD — OUTSTANDING PATTERNS
CIVIL WAR ITEMS — PLUS THE FAMOUS OSTHEIMER
COLLECTION OF GOBRECHT AND LATE DOLLARS
INCLUDING THE EXCEEDINGLY RARE 1870 S

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Auctioneer: Donald D'Amato

**The Merkin
September
1968 Sale had a
wonderful slate
of offerings,
including a
complete set of
half dimes.
Who consigned
the half dimes to
this sale?**

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| b ____ Draped Bust Half Dimes | i ____ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dollars |
| c ____ Capped Bust Half Dimes | j ____ Draped Bust Half Dollars |
| d ____ Draped Bust Small Eagle Dimes | k ____ Capped Bust Half Dollars |
| e ____ Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle Dimes | l ____ Flowing Hair Bust Dollars |
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